

Claims

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:

1. A system for establishing a level of security in a personal computer having a memory and a stored operating system, the system comprising:

a securing profile generated when the system is turned on and reflecting features including the number of unsuccessful power-on password attempts and at least one other factor chosen from time of day, day of week and security level of authorization of the user; and allowing or denying use of the personal computer to the user based on the security profile.

2. A system for providing security in a personal computer including the elements of Claim 1 wherein the security profile includes a log of the access attempts for the personal computer and the results of each attempt.

3. A system of the type described in Claim 2 wherein the security profile can be altered to a less secure state only by a system owner through the use of a password different than the password of a normal user.

1 4. A system of the type described in Claim 3 for improving security of a personal
2 computer wherein the security profile can be altered to a more secure state by a
3 normal user.

1 5. A system for providing computer security including the elements set forth in
2 Claim 4 where the security profile includes a plurality of binary indicators have a
3 more secure state and a less secure state, and a normal user of the computer
4 system may change at least one of the binary indicators from a less secure state
5 to a more secure state.

1 6. A system for providing computer security including the elements set forth in
2 Claim 5 wherein a user with a security password may change at least one of the
3 binary indicators from a more secure state to a less secure state.

1 7. A method of providing improved security in a personal computer having an
2 operating system and a security profile stored in memory, the steps of the method
3 comprising:

4 generating a security profile with indications of greater or lesser security and
5 storing the security profile in the personal computer;
6 using the security profile to determine what access, if any, a normal user will be
7 permitted to have to the computer system; and
8 allowing the normal user to change the security profile from a level of lesser
9 security to a level of greater security but denying the normal user to change the
10 security profile from a level of greater security to a level of lesser security.

11 8. A method of providing security in a personal computer including the steps of
12 Claim 7 and further including the step of allowing a privileged user with a security
13 password to change the security profile from a level of greater security to a level
14 of lesser security.

1 9. A method of providing security in a personal computer including the steps of
2 Claim 8 and further including the step of updating the security profile in response
3 to a security risk.

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10. A method of providing security in a personal computer including the steps of Claim 9 and further including the step of responding to an attempt to open a cover of the personal computer and indicating the security risk associated with the attempt to open the cover in the security profile.

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1 11. A program stored on a media for providing security functions in a personal
2 computer comprising:

3 a module for generating a security profile including an indication of the number
4 of times that an unsuccessful password attempt can be performed before the
5 personal computer is shut down and will require a security password to reset the
6 personal computer can be operated; and

7 a module responsive to the security profile for determining whether a user will be
8 permitted to access the personal computer and what facilities of the personal
9 computer that user will be permitted to access.